

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Seat Belt Enforcement Campaign Continues

As a reminder, the Sheriff's Office will be conducting part two of a three-part seat belt enforcement grant in Los Altos Hills during the week of August 12-18. Law enforcement agencies throughout the state will be engaged in this high-visibility seat belt campaign wherein the assigned officers and deputies salaries will be paid by the State of California Office of Traffic Safety for providing this life-saving program.



City Manager Maureen Cassingham

Part three of the grant will be administered in Town during the week of September 2-8.

Town Logo to Appear on Sheriff's Patrol Vehicles

Beginning this fall, the Town of Los Altos Hills logo will appear on the doors of Sheriff's patrol vehicles assigned to provide law enforcement services in Los Altos Hills. Our logo will appear next to the Sheriff's Department logo followed by the words "Proudly Serving the Town of Los Altos Hills." The intention of this change is to convey that the Town provides these critical life and property protection services to our residents through the Sheriff's Department.

Status of Proposed Ground Leases with Purissima Hills Water District

On July 20, 2004, the Purissima Hills Water District officially conveyed its intention to approve the proposed ground lease agreements with the Town for its new Operations Center and Town emergency communications antenna at the La Cresta tank site once the exhibits to it are finalized. Specifically, the District needs to determine whether it can construct its Operation Center within the Town Hall site setbacks and whether it can accommodate the Town's request for a larger antenna/equipment site at the La Cresta tank site.

The City Council will be updated on the progress of the development of mutually acceptable lease agreement exhibits.

Status of Town Request for Additional Capacity in Palo Alto Treatment Plant

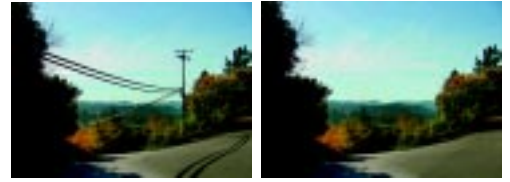
The Town has formally requested 0.19mgd additional capacity from the partner agencies of the Palo Alto Regional Water Quality Control Plant for wastewater arriving through the Los Altos Basin from Los Altos Hills. The partners will hear this request on August 4.

Approval will set the stage for (1) accessing more capacity as the Town and its sphere of influence needs increase and (2) enhancing the Town's position in negotiations with the City of Los Altos for a new sewer rights/use agreement.

—Maureen Cassingham, City Manager

UNDERGROUNDING UPDATE: SELECTING A PILOT PROJECT

In May, the Town council approved our recommendation for a pilot project. We will utilize existing undergrounding funds to increase awareness of the issues involved and better understand the process.



*What do you prefer? With or without utility poles?
(View at the corner of Viscaino and La Cresta Drive)*

The poll we did in March showed significant support (over 40%) for a \$50M+ town-wide effort to bury all our wires. However, just as many residents were opposed to the idea. We know there's still a lot of confusion surrounding this topic (no, your property taxes will not go up 15%!), and we expect support for undergrounding to grow - not diminish - over time, so we proposed the pilot project to provide a concrete example of the process and results for the town.

Funding the Pilot

Since 1968, utilities in California have been required to set aside a portion of their revenue for local undergrounding projects. For PG&E, our available funds will allow us to bury about a half mile of wires. Once the site is selected, the cable and phone companies will provide funds for burying their wires along the same stretch. This is called a "Rule 20A" project, and it cannot utilize funds from residents.

Selecting the Route

PG&E has a number of criteria for Rule 20A projects. They include:

- "High Traffic" : should be an area with lots of traffic to benefit the largest number of residents;
- "High Clutter" : the area should have lots of wires, or big bundles of wires, or both;
- "High Civic or Scenic Value" : proximity to a community center or scenic destination is preferred.

Our committee added one other criterion: "Few Overhead Drops". These are the overhead lines from the street to the homes, and while some Rule 20A funds could be applied to burying these lines, we'd prefer to get the most "community-wide" value from the project, instead of using a significant portion of these limited funds for burying the lines to individual residents.

Using these four criteria, the committee is currently ranking a number of 2000' stretches of town roads. Our final recommendations should be available next month.

- The Undergrounding Committee

*For Council Agenda and Minutes,
See our Website:
www.losaltoshills.ca.gov*